



“Total Physical Response in the language learning process of English as a second language in young learners in coordination with other teaching methods”

What is the current trend in teaching English today?



- The current trend in teaching English as a foreign language is to combine different teaching methods in order to have the best results (post-methods era).
- This means that no single method can be viewed as the best one since the needs, aptitudes, abilities and educational circumstances of the learners vary.
- During the last two decades, the field of foreign language teaching does not search for the 'right' method but rather views the combination of various methods as the best strategy (Tavakoli & Jones, 2018).



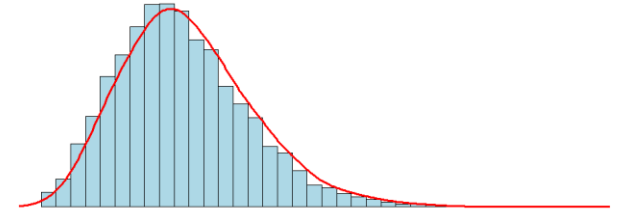
What is TPR ?



- "Total Physical Response (TPR) is a language teaching method built around the coordination of speech and action; it attempts to teach language through physical (motor) activity" (Richards & Rodgers, 2001, p. 73).
 - Movement plays a vital role
 - Oral input and instructions are very important as well. The teachers acts something out and then asks the students to do the same. The teacher is the role model. At a later stage, students give instructions and commands to each other.
- Totally suitable for young learners: fun and engaging, use of the whole body and senses, children are not obliged to sit all the time, they are moving and learning.
 - Not ideal for older students and adults.
 - Concrete words are easy to teach but what about abstract ideas?



Our research



- The subject of this research is the analysis of 12 studies which focus on the effectiveness of using the TPR method in the English language classroom for young learners.
 - The 12 studies have been divided into 3 categories in order to measure effectiveness in 3 different areas (vocabulary, grammar, and comparison of TPR with more traditional methods).
- Results: 100% effective for vocabulary and grammar
75% more effective in comparison to other teaching methods
- Implications: TPR can be implemented in the EFL context for young learners



TPR and games

How to incorporate TPR in the classroom?

A lot of imperatives/ not extensive use of course books but rather other teaching materials such as: pictures, cards, realia, stories, games etc.

- Games

Despite of some beliefs about the uselessness of their existence in the educational field, it has been proved that they can actually boost learning development because they reduce stress, enhance motivation and provide real life scenarios for communication (Tuan & Doan, 2010).

Alexiou & Chondrogianni (2017) have conducted a small-case study in order to measure the effectiveness of combining games with the TPR method. The selected games were Twister and Wii, not only because of their popularity but also because they can fit into educational purposes, and the results were very positive for their incorporation with the TPR technique (Alexiou & Chondrogianni, 2017).



TPR and PE

- Abundance of movement and action in a TPR class, abundance of movement and action in PE. Can TPR for ELT be combined with PE?
- "Physical education and sports/play is a course in which the TPR method can be applied comfortably" (Coşar & Orhan, 2019, p. 72). As a matter of fact, a lot of attention has been placed globally to the incorporation of ELT through the TPR method in PE classes (Suárez-Acevedo, Kathleen-Burns, Duarte-Fletcher, & Gómez-Rueda, 2016).
 - In the 3rd Experimental Primary School of Evosmos, in Thessaloniki, PE is successfully combined with TPR in all grades (Emmanouilidou, 2019).
- Results from an eight-week study that was conducted in a Turkish kindergarten, have showed that teaching English vocabulary through TPR in a PE course is more effective than traditional methods (Coşar & Orhan, 2019).
- An action research in a Spanish primary school, has depicted that there was a significantly positive effect from the PE-in-CLIL approach in the students' oral skills (Coral & Lleixà, 2016).



TPR and PE

- The language that is used in PE is direct, concrete and to a large extent consists of imperatives, namely it is the kind of language that is taught at the initial stages of TPR.
- The teacher articulates the commands, shows them to the students and then they have to act them out. For instance, raise your arm/arms, stretch your leg/legs, jump five times, run in a circle form etc.
- When team sports such as football, basketball, volleyball etc., have to be introduced the following technique might be applied:

The teacher can first teach the vocabulary that is necessary for the chosen sport, then show some pictures/videos in order to explain the actions that the students have to carry out and the rules and finally let the students play the sport while s/he uses only English to direct and explain.

- Suarez-Acevedo et al., have designed a framework for reference in teaching English through TPR in volleyball classes at a campus of a Colombian university (2016).



TPR and CLIL



- The combination of PE and TPR method for language learning is part of a wider approach to foreign language teaching which is called CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning)
- CLIL is an approach that combines various school subjects with language teaching and it has gained a lot of notice during the last two decades globally.

For example, history, science or PE are taught in a foreign language. There is a double gain since students learn two things simultaneously: language and content.

Teachers have to be competent though in both language and content in order to teach this way. Thus, the implementation can become a challenge in some contexts. However, teacher training and collaboration of both content and language teachers, can solve the above issue.

The 3rd Experimental Primary School of Evosmos in Thessaloniki, is a very successful example of CLIL implementation from the very first grades. Some of the school subjects involved in CLIL are: history, geography, PE, chess.



What The Future Holds



- TPR is a method that should totally be introduced to young learners because it is highly effective as the examined researches convey. Its introduction can be supported through the use of supplementary teaching materials such as stories or games, without the need to strictly follow a specific coursebook.
- Games are no longer seen as inferior in the learning process. Gamification in education has started to become very popular nowadays.
- An innovative approach would be to combine PE (which contains a lot of physical games, e.g., basketball, football, volleyball etc.) with ELT (English Language Teaching) through the TPR method and thus introduce a content-based environment for the acquisition of the English Language.



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